GUEST EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Penn Jones, Jr., author of *Forgive My Grief,* one of the first of several books critical of the Warren Commission Report, is the editor of the *Midlothian* (Texas) *Mirror.* (See also J. W. Masi's report elsewhere in this issue.) — Ed.

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From the once almost universal acceptance of the Warren Commission Report, 7 out of 10 people now doubt the findings. Elaborate TV programs and a very long news story have been presented recently in an effort to stop this trend of doubt. It will be difficult for the average citizen to understand deceptions in these programs unless he has spent many hours with the testimony and exhibits.

But there *is* one solid, tangible, and best piece of evidence the public has not been allowed to see, and will not be allowed to see. That evidence alone — the little piece of Abraham Zapruder movie film is all that need be shown to prove to all that there were at least two riflemen shooting at the President. The viewing of the violent slamming of the President's head against the back seat rest of the car is conclusive evidence that a rifle was fired from the front. That motion plus the splattering of the policeman with blood and brain located at the left rear of the President's car is so overwhelming that the public must not be allowed to see it.

What is this lame excuse that the film is the property of *Life* magazine — so solemnly proclaimed by the announcer this week [Walter Cronkite]? Take it from *Life!* That is what was done with the Oswald rifle. A special law was passed by Congress to deny the rifle to a Colorado man who had already purchased it from Maria Oswald Porter. The rifle is really of no value since it was not used. But the movie pictures are proof.

Citizens, while you still have time demand — demand to have the Zapruder movies shown to the public. The film will cost money — maybe several millions, but what does that matter compared to the importance to this democracy?

Even the terms of purchase agreed to by *Life* make one suspicious. *Life* agreed to unbelievable restrictions in order to store the film in its vaults. Not only will *Life* not show it, *Life* will not tell the terms of the contract to the public. No wonder Zapruder broke down and cried when asked by a Commission attorney how much he was paid for the film.

The *Mirror* has learned that the contract runs for 10 years. Zapruder has been paid more than $480,000 to date. He gets a high royalty each time the film is shown.

While Zapruder was testifying, he told how magnanimous he had been in giving $25,000 to the Firemen's and Policemen's Fund. On such an important matter as this, possibly he and *Life* might be magnanimous again and relinquish their royalties for a few months while the film is being shown to the entire nation.

(*Continued on Page* 11)

GUEST EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

(*Continued from Page* 6)

But if the full royalty is demanded, we say pay the man — pay *Life.* Pay them all, but by all means show the movie

EAST SIDE

86th Street and Third

The Editor:

As a UN correspondent who has covered the world organization since its inception, I read Leah Fritz's "The Shake of Araby"—based undoubtedly on TV coverage only—with a great deal of interest and with some annoyance in respect to certain references.

Your Leah referred to Israel's phenomenal six-day operation — unparalleled in military history— as "an Old Testament victory." To this I cannot object. It was an Old Testament victory in the spirit of a Gideon, a Deborah, a Joshua, etc.

I did object to Leah's reference to the Old Testament as being anyone compare Israel to a " ervation"? Look what Israel accomplished in science, agri ture, industry, irrigation and t nology! Numerous African st and some in Asia are recei technical assistance from Is Leah also notes that "in the run Israel may prove a liabilit the Western nations." The tru that the Jewish State, a d cratic oasis in a feudal Arat gion, constitutes a first-line o fense for the West—now an the future.

Leah, apparently, was too with her pen.

In one of my recent colum suggested the UN consider

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GUEST EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

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royalty is demanded, we say pay the man
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.00 a year — Foreign: $10.00 a year

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I did object to Leah's reference to the Old Testament as being "virile, barbaric and unsentimental—for all its *mythical* greatness and beauty." There's nothing "mythical" to the greatness and beauty of the Hebrew Bible. You have there great men of affairs, Moses, for example, as one of the world's greatest legislators whose pattern of government was adopted by the Founding Fathers and who laid the groundwork for the Judeo-Christian civilization by which the Western nations live today.

Leah referred to "Israel as a reservation which the world reluctantly assigned to the Jews, much as America provided reservations for the Indians."

The analogy is inexcusable, although it is an honor to be compared with the Indians who worshipped the One Great Spirit. First of all, the UN did not vote *reluctantly* for the creation of a Jewish State on November 29, 1947. Even the U.S.S.R. joined the U.S. and others in the vote for Israeli Statehood. Next, how can

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CBS 1967 Special

Politics East

J. W. Masi

Two of the most persistent and thorough critics of the Warren Commission's investigation into President Kennedy's murder said, this week, that CBS News' 4-hour examination of the document has unintentionally weakened, not strengthened, the Commission's findings.

Harold Weisberg, author of *Whitewash* and *Whitewash II*, blasted the network's production as a "video whitewash" run by "professional lickspittles." Sylvia Meagher, who has indexed the full 26 volumes of testimony and exhibits published by the Commission, said the CBS programs were "outrageous and when they weren't outrageous they were laughable."

Some 27 million viewers watched each of the 4 hour-long programs telecast on June 25-28. The network's front-rank news team, led by Walter Cronkite and Dan Rather, agreed with the Warren Report's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald assassinated President Kennedy from the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository, November 22, 1963. No evidence of conspiracy was revealed.

Mrs. Meagher and Weisberg pointed to ballistics tests and marksmanship exercises performed by the station as the key to the production's "failure."

CBS had arranged for 11 volunteer marksmen to fire at a target moving away from a tower the height of the sixth floor Depository window. In 37 attempts, Cronkite reported, "17 had to be called no time, because of trouble with the rifle." Cronkite added Governor John B. Connally, and emerging intact. If this "single bullet theory" fails, the Commission's entire case, according to Cronkite, is reduced to a series of improbabilities, even though the Commission said it was not essential to its findings.

"In none of the ballistics tests run by CBS were any of the bullets shown to have been able to make all of the wounds and emerge with as little damage as the Warren Report contended," Mrs. Meagher said. Firing through cloth, blocks of gelatin, and masonite to represent the President's clothes and neck, and the Governor's back, wrist, and thigh, CBS concluded that a single bullet could have wounded both men. Yet, Dr. William F. Enos of Northern Virginia Doctor's Hospital, told CBS newsman Dan Rather that the possibility was remote, though "not 100 per cent impossible. In medicine . . . we never like to say something is absolutely 100 per cent impossible," the doctor said.

Mrs. Meagher, emphasizing the CBS transition from the testing laboratory to the questions asked of Dr. Enos, said she doubted strongly that any of the bullets which pierced the blocks weren't themselves shattered by the several impacts. "If CBS had been able to successfully conduct such an experiment you can bet they would have shown the bullet on television," she said.

The question is legitimate, and should have been answered — Why wasn't *their* "successful" bullet displayed?

Walter Lister, who conducted the tests, was on vacation and unavailable to respond to the charge of Mrs. Meagher.

Weisberg, speaking of the general dilemma faced by CBS, said the network's method was wrong. "You can't divide up the responsibility and expect to get an accurate and coherent report." He dismissed the station's claims to thoroughness, saying he does more work in a month that CBS could have done in their entire project. (The author still works 18 hours a day, 7 days a week on the assassination.) Weisberg intends to go on radio and television with his criticisms of the CBS programs, which, because of their large audience, some critics believe to be influential. Weisberg, however, does not believe CBS' work will convince a public which has been overwhelmingly skeptical of the Warren Report.

* * *

(Mrs. Meagher is writing an article for "Minority of One" magazine on the telecasts. Her book, *Accessories After the Fact: The Warren Commission, the Authorities, and the Report*, is scheduled for September publication by Bobbs and Merrill.

Weisberg's book, *Photographic Whitewash-Suppressed Kennedy Assassination Pictures*, will be printed privately by the author next week. Another book, *Oswald in New Orleans: C.I.A. Whitewash*, will come from Parallax in the fall. The author said *Photographic Whitewash* and his earlier works *Whitewash* and *Whitewash II* can be obtained by writing him at Hyattstown, Maryland. Each book is $5.)

The Least East

Rick Friedman

P.S. 17, WE LOVE THEE

J. Minor Timberline, the rugged ex-All American grade school gym teacher at Yorkville P.S. 17, popped into Manhattan East the other day. (J. Minor, as anyone following the news lately knows, is one of the top leaders of the United Federation of Gym Teachers.)

"What is it you gym teachers *really* want from the Board of Education?" Watts, our editor, asked J. Minor. "More barbells? Expanded locker room space? Louder whistles?"

"I don't know what the rest of my fellow-gym teachers *really* [illegible]

We love thy dark and dingy halls.
We revere thy dirty sayings
Scrawled on thy cracked and peeling walls . . .

"*That's* a grade school alma mater?" Watts asked, surprised.

"The kids themselves wrote it in Music Appreciation Class," J. Minor explained. "They gave us our choice—use it or get out. I must admit, though, the little buggers really caught the spirit of Yorkville P.S. 17." J. Minor put a muscular finger to his thick lips. "Sh-sh. There's more."

P.S. 17, we love thee,
We love thy grayish prison looks.
We revere the old alumni
Who have become outstanding crooks.

Other schools they boast of brains.
Here we boast of brawn.
Other schools, they boast of shop,
Here, we boast of pawn.
Other schools have discipline,
But our school is tops.
We are taught to stay in line

(Continued on Page 10)

campaign is just runn

that the 20 other attempts proved that the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, alleged to be the murder weapon, could be fired three times "with reasonable accuracy" in 5.6 seconds or less.

This was one of the points Mrs. Meagher denounced as "laughable." "Notice, the qualifications of the marksmen were not given. Did any of them have the rating Oswald was known to have?" Mrs. Meagher also noted that in 17 of the 37 attempts or 46% of the time, the rifle failed to fire at all, proving the weapon to be "no damn good."

Weisberg said he couldn't think of a single criticism examined by CBS that he hadn't dealt with in his first book published in February, 1965. "I take it as a sort of tribute that they proved my contention that the first shot was fired at frame 186 of the Zapruder film, not at 210, as the Commission claimed." CBS said it had shown, through photographic analysis, that Abraham Zapruder's 8 mm film of the event blurs at frames 190, 227, and 318. Cronkite said the blurring was caused by rifle fire which startled the amateur moviemaker. The importance of the frame in which the first shot rang out is that more time would be afforded Oswald, thereby making his feat of marksmanship and speed more believable.

Weisberg says in his book, p. 104: "Beginning with frame 190 the film suddenly becomes fuzzy . . ." Weisberg blasted the Commission for failing to ask Zapruder what it was that startled him. The Commission said that at frame 210 the President's head first became a clear shot.

The ballistics tests sought to determine the possibility of a single bullet's inflicting 7 non-fatal wounds on President Kennedy and

want," J.M. replied. "But I know what *I* want from the Board of Education."

"That is?" Watts probed, sensing a story.

"Protection! Something like they have on the subway. A cop in every gym." J.M.'s eyes widened. His muscular nostrils flared.

"Protection against little grade school kids?" Watts asked, slightly incredulous.

"Damn right," J. Minor insisted. "Watts, when was the last time you saw a grade school kid? Since doctors started feeding babies vitamins, grade school kids today are bigger. Tougher. Smarter. Better organized than you and I ever were as kids."

"You're putting me on," Watts said.

"I'll prove it to you," J. Minor came back. "My school is having a sixth grade graduation tomorrow morning. You and Friedman meet me there and I'll show you how tough school kids today *really* are."

The next morning Watts and I spotted J. Minor's large, muscular frame standing by the schoolyard gate. "You both sure — sure you want to go inside there?" J. Minor said, nodding toward the old red brick school building.

"Why not?" Watts replied, still dubious of what J. Minor was claiming.

As we started for the entrance J. Minor put up one of his huge hands. "Wait. Listen. The sixth grade graduating class is in there singing the (pause) Yorkville P.S. 17 alma mater."

We listened. From somewhere inside the old school building we could hear a chorus of young male and female voices raised in song.

P.S. 17, we love thee,

ing around in circles and going nowhere... Next time you discover that your advertisin

let Manhattan East straighten you out!

Readers select the newspaper that represents them best, and Manhattan East knows the people for whom it writes;crusades for their local interests; reports on their activities and recreations; features original articles by local talent and by the area's elected representatives. Your advertising, appearing alongside local news, becomes an item of local interest in the world's richest market.

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